

# Poster Session

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

CLASSIFICATION  
WEB

World Wide Web access to Library of Congress  
Classification and Library of Congress Subject Headings

LC Classification KIA:  
*Indigenous Peoples in the Americas*  
Gateway to Web Resources?

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(1) The inherent access and linking functionality of the Library of Congress online classification system is currently under study for further exploitation of its potential, with the new Law Classification for *Indigenous Peoples in the Americas*. Re-evaluated were in particular its matured capabilities for linking and access to electronic resources because *Tribal law* and *Tribal organization* are

- not common knowledge beyond the folkloric Indian: because
- of scarcity of documentary evidence,
- because of lack of commercial publishing so far,
- and mostly because of absence of publicity about repositories for Indian law materials .

(2) Where then are - besides some grand collections on anthropology, ethnology, history and ethnic geography - the **primary sources** on **modern law and government** of the **sovereign** or **autonomous Indigenous communities** in the Americas?

(3) Tedious search and research brings to light that only a few bonafide specialized institutions and organizations, have one of a kind and mostly little publicized collection on law and sociology of the Indigenous - or programs with limited access. However:

- **Electronic access** is opening up.
- Sifting tenaciously through the deep Web, one will come across some truly amazing **information aggregates** in different formats, generated by different agencies or organizations, and linked to or from regional **maps**.

As examples may serve such dazzling kaleidoscopes of information, as the

- **Aboriginal Canada** portal (**Fig.1**) - a single gateway to over 8,000 Web sites or portals- supported by the Canadian Government and national aboriginal organizations; and
- **ArcticStat** (**Fig.2**), a permanent, public statistical database on regions and populations of the Arctic primarily for concentration of a mass of widely dispersed data, and supported by the *Arctic Council* and the *Dept. of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada*.



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**

(4) The three year study during the development of the classification schedule for Indigenous peoples' law resulted in the (current) development of a pilot, by **firstly**, adding value to the information access by using visuals, i.e.:

- linking **from maps** as **visual access to classification content**, or
- linking **from classification** to maps as **visual enhancement of information** presented in the classification schedule.

It proved that use of maps as a **front end** is almost a **natural** since most of the LC classification is based on geography. The examples below (Fig. 3 and 4) show that the same geo-political content expressed by text, is present on the map:

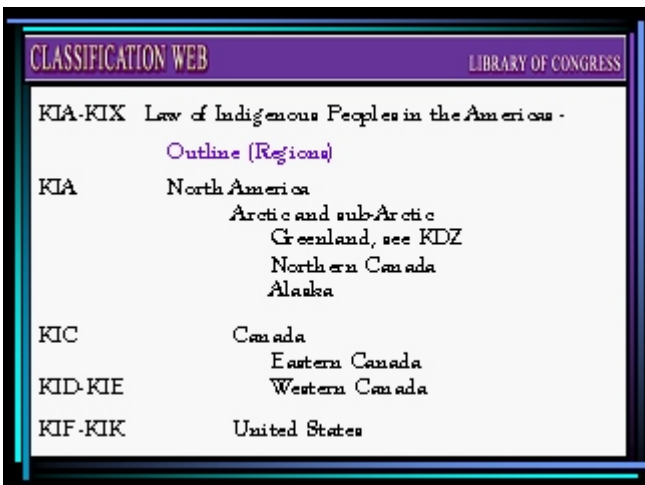


Figure 3



Figure 4

*Secondly,*

- the subject architecture (“World of knowledge”) is well developed and constantly evolving;
- it is “body tailored “ on LC’s own vast collections;
- subject detail of classification mirrors the encyclopedic **character** of the collections,
- and is tied by “**literary warrant**” to the literary reality out there, in both, content and language.
- At the same time, it is linked to **LC Subject Headings** and the **OPAC**.

*Thirdly,*

This complex re-investigation of *ClassificationWeb* linking functionality and its potential as direct web access tool lead to the work on Classification-to-Web interfaces where the search is supported by the pre-coordinated information of the online-classification. Its multi-lateral linking capability will deliver aggregated information to the user (Subject search for Inuit Peoples’ organizations, Fig. 5 to 8) extending *ClassificationWeb* - with its bucket of Metadata in a more open Web

environment - to a Gateway for content on the Web,

- without sending the user into the “web morass,” and
- without confronting the user with the text of the classification.

The search command on the search page (key term/ or subject) is linked to the *ClassificationWeb* architecture in the background, which links simultaneously to Web content anywhere.

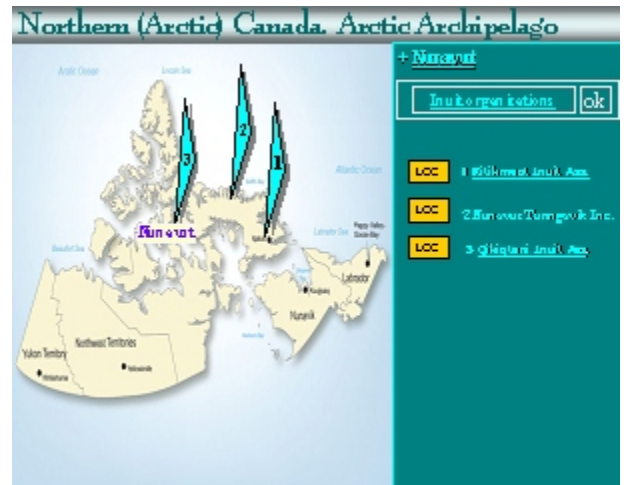


Figure 5

Figure 6

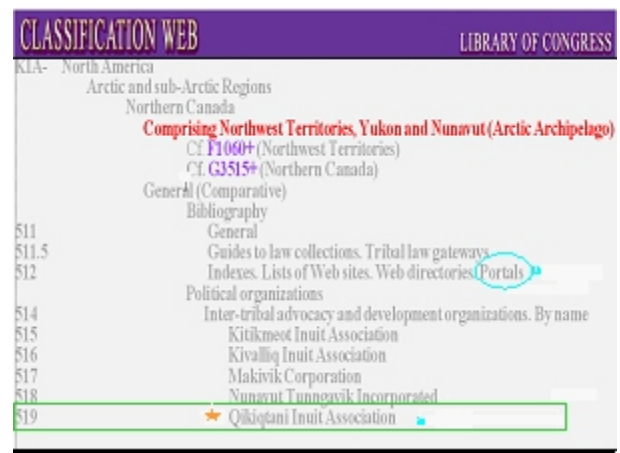


Figure 7

Figure 8